

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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ROCHESTER MAN SENTENCED FOR FOOD STAMP FRAUD

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Ali Shuaebi, 47, of Rochester, NY, who was convicted of the unauthorized use, transfer, acquisition, alteration and possession of food stamp benefits, was sentenced to 12 months in prison , five years supervised release and ordered to pay restitution to the United States Department of Agriculture in the amount of \$189,555 by U.S. District Judge Charles J. Siragusa.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Tiffany H. Lee, who handled the case, stated that between October 2008 and July 2009, the defendant fraudulently acquired and possessed over \$5000 in food stamp benefits issued by the United States Department of Agriculture while operating Mo Better Mini Mart located at 422 Jefferson Avenue in Rochester. Food stamp benefits are issued by the Agriculture Department through New York State social service agencies to eligible beneficiaries. Recipients are required to purchase eligible food items with the food stamp benefits. Shuaebi, however, purchased the food stamp benefits for less than their full value from the beneficiaries in exchange for cash. He did this by swiping the food stamp access device cards through the electronic funds transfer terminal installed at Mo Better Mini Mart.

The sentencing is the culmination of an investigation on the part of the United States Department of Agriculture, Office of the Inspector General and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge James C. Spero.